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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
IO-14 SSM-05 /085 W
----------005947 030940Z /11
P 030820Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7866
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSLAEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2512

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, SY, EG
SUBJ: SYRIAN EDITORIALS CALL FOR "TOPPLING" SADAT

1. SYRIAN EDITORIALS MAY 2 CONTINUE TO ATTACK SADAT PERSONALLY RATHER THAN JUST HIS POLICISE. LEAD EDITORIAL IN BAATH AGAIN CALLS FOR "TOPPLING" SADAT, CHARACTERIZING IT AS "A NATIONAL AND PAN-ARAB DUTY." EDITORIAL CHARGES THAT ALL WHO BELIEVED THAT SADAT'S INITIATIVES HAD BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN US ATTITUDES SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISABUSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S "ESPOUSAL OF BEGIN'S PROPOSALS." EDITORIAL ACCUSES US OF TRYING TO SPLIT ARABS BY WORKING TO HAVE ANOTHER ARAB PARTY JOIN SADAT, WHILE CONSPIRING AGAINST SYRIA BECAUSE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO HIM. IT CALLS UPON THE ARABS TO "ABANDON THEIR WAGER ON THE CURRENT AMERICAN POSITION"
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AND TO TURN THEIR ENERGIES TOWARD ENHANCING THEIR CAPABILITIES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH REITERATION OF CALL TO TOPPLE SADAT'S REGIME "WHO IS THE INSTRUMENT OF THE PLOT."

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2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN TISHRIIN ASSERTS THAT CARTER DID NOT SAY ANYTHING NEW WHEN "HE ESPOUSED BEGIN'S EXPANSIONIST PLAN AS THE BASIS FOR A MEDEAST SETTLEMENT." COLUMN MOCKS THE CLAIM THAT EGYPT HAS SURPRISED BY THESE STATEMENTS SINCE EVERYTHING WNICH IS HAPPENING IS AIMED AT CAPITULATION. THESE STATEMENTS, IT ASSERTS, CONFIRM "THE VALIDITY OF THE SYRIAN POSITION AND THE PRECISION OF SYRIAN ASSESSMENTS" CONTAINED IN ASSAD'S POLICIES. US IS ACCUSED OF BEING "NEITHER SINCERE NOR HONEST" IN ITS PEACE EFFORTS SINCE IT CANNOT ACT AS AN IMPARTIAL ARBITER BECAUSE "IT IS A PARTY TO THE DISPUTE."

3. THE ONLY OTHER TWO EDITORIALS TO APPEAR ALSO DEAL WITH SADAT. ONE ALLEGES THAT HE IS PLANNING BROAD CHANGES IN HIS GOVERNMENT "ON THE PRETEXT THAT IT FAILED TO CARRY OUT WHAT SADAT PROMISED THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE--THAT HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL ANDITS RESULTS WOULD SOLVE ALL OF EGYPT'S DOMESTIC PROBLEMS." ISRAEL'S FAILURE TO SIGN A PEACE WITH EGYPT, IT CLAIMS, HAS INDUCED SADAT TO CRACK DOWN ON EVERYONE ADVOCATING EGYPT'S ARABISM.

4. COMMENT: THIS CURRENT ANTI-SADAT CAMPAIGN IN NO WAY APPROACHES IN ITS INTENSITY THE RHETORIC OF THE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SADAT'S JERUSALEM VISIT. NEVER-THELESS, IT CAN ONLY MAKE LIFE HARDER FOR NUMEIRI (WHO EXPECTED
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HERE LATER THIS WEEK) AND OTHER SEEKING TO RECONCILE ASSAD AND SADAT.
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Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 mar 2005
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN EDITORIALS CALL FOR \"TOPPLING\" SADAT
TAGS: SOPN, PROP, SY, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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